IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims as follows:

Claim 1 (Currently Amended): A content information processing apparatus

comprising:

first storage means for storing first content information ~~indicating~~ identifying content

that is screened ~~for a user~~ at a physical location and content supplier information identifying a

content supplier that screens the content at the physical location;

distributing means for distributing the content to a terminal of [[the]] a user via a

network, the terminal being at a different location than the physical location and ~~configured~~

~~to allow~~ allowing the user to view the content;

viewing history storage means for storing viewing history information including an

indication that the user has viewed the content on the terminal;

calculating means for calculating a payment to the content supplier that screens the

content at the physical location, the payment based on the viewing history information and

the first content information; and

payment processing means for providing the payment from the user to the content

supplier that screens the content at the physical location.

Claim 2 (Canceled).

Claim 3 (Previously Presented): The content information processing apparatus

according to Claim 1, further comprising a network interface configured to connect via a

communication network to a content distribution terminal for distributing the content to the

terminal of the user over the communication network.

Claim 4 (Previously Presented): The content information processing apparatus according to Claim 1, further comprising:

second storage means for storing identification information regarding the user and user assigned-area information indicating an area associated with the user;

the first storage means further stores supplier assigned-area information indicating an area associated with the content supplier that screens the content; and

the calculating means further calculates the payment to the content supplier that screens the content based on the stored user assigned-area information and the stored supplier assigned-area information.

Claim 5 (Previously Presented): The content information processing apparatus according to Claim 1, further comprising:

registration means for accepting registration of a user assigned-area information indicating an area associated with the user; and

second storage means for storing the user assigned-area information.

Claim 6 (Previously Presented): The content information processing apparatus according to Claim 1, further comprising:

viewing information processing means for providing the viewing history information to the content supplier.

Claim 7 (Previously Presented): The content information processing apparatus according to Claim 1, further comprising:

viewing information processing means for providing the terminal of the user with information regarding a plurality of content suppliers registered in association with the

content distributed to the terminal of the user and for accepting the content supplier as a

desired content supplier selected from among the plurality of content suppliers by the

user.

Claim 8 (Previously Presented): The content information processing apparatus

according to Claim 7, wherein

the first storage means further stores advertising information of each of the plurality

of content suppliers, and

when providing the terminal of the user with the information regarding the plurality of

content suppliers, the viewing information processing means provides the user with the

advertising information of the content suppliers stored in the first storage means.

Claim 9 (Previously Presented): The content information processing apparatus

according to Claim 1, further comprising:

user information storage means for storing a relationship of the user to the content

supplier,

wherein the calculating means further calculates the payment to the content supplier

based on the stored relationship of the user to the content supplier in the user information

storage means.

Claim 10 (Previously Presented): The content information processing apparatus

according to Claim 1, wherein

the calculating means further calculates the payment based on a predetermined rate.

Claim 11 (Previously Presented): The content information processing apparatus according to Claim 1, wherein

the content includes a video content;

the content supplier includes an operator of a theater or a video content distributor; and

the physical location includes the theater.

Claim 12 (Currently Amended): A content information processing system comprising:

a distribution apparatus for distributing a content to a terminal of a user via a network, the terminal ~~configured to allow~~ allowing a user to view the content; and

a server for processing information related to the content distributed by the distribution apparatus, the server comprising:

storage means for storing content information ~~indicating~~ identifying the content that is screened ~~for the user~~ at the physical location and content supplier information identifying a content supplier that screens the content at the physical location, the physical location being at a different location than the terminal;

viewing history storage means for storing viewing history information including an indication that the user has viewed the content on the terminal;

calculating means for calculating a payment to the content supplier that screens the content at the physical location, the payment based on the viewing history information and the content information; and

payment processing means for providing the payment from the user to the content supplier that screens the content at the physical location.

Claim 13 (Currently Amended): A content information processing method executed by a computer, the method comprising:

storing content information ~~indicating~~ identifying content that is screened ~~for a user~~ at a physical location and content supplier information identifying a content supplier that screens the content at the physical location;

distributing the content to a terminal of [[the]] a user via a network, the terminal being at a different location than the physical location and ~~configured to allow~~ allowing the user to view the content;

storing viewing history information including an indication that the user has viewed the content on the terminal;

calculating, by the computer, a payment to the content supplier that screens the content at the physical location, the payment based on the viewing history information and the content information; and

providing, by the computer, the payment from the user to the content supplier that screens the content at the physical location.

Claim 14 (Canceled).

Claim 15 (Currently Amended): A computer-readable medium including computer executable instructions, wherein the instructions, when executed by a computer, cause the computer to perform a method comprising:

storing content information ~~indicating~~ identifying content that is screened ~~for a user~~ at a physical location and content supplier information identifying a content supplier that screens the content at the physical location;

distributing the content to a terminal of the user via a network, the terminal being at a

different location than the physical location and ~~configured to allow~~ <u>allowing</u> the user to view

the content;

storing viewing history information including an indication that the user has viewed

the content on the terminal;

calculating a payment to the content supplier that screens the content at the physical

location, the payment based on the viewing history information the content information; and

providing the payment from the user to the content supplier that screens the content at

the physical location.

Claim 16 (Currently Amended): A content information processing apparatus

comprising:

a storage unit configured to store content information regarding content screened ~~for a~~

~~user~~ at a physical location and content supplier information regarding a content supplier that

screens the content at the physical location;

a distributing unit configured to distribute the content to a terminal of [[the]] <u>a</u> user

via a network, the terminal being at a different location than the physical location and

~~configured to allow~~ <u>allowing</u> the user to view the content;

a viewing history storage unit configured to store viewing history information

including an indication that the user has viewed the content on the terminal;

a calculating unit configured to calculate a payment to the content supplier that

screens the content at the physical location, the payment based on the viewing history

information and the content information; and

a payment processing unit configured to provide the payment from the user to the

content supplier that screens the content at the physical location.

Claim 17 (Previously Presented): The content information processing apparatus according to Claim 1, wherein

the viewing history information includes a number of times the user views the content using the terminal of the user.

Claim 18 (Previously Presented): The content information processing apparatus according to Claim 1, further comprising:

second calculating means for calculating a second payment to another content supplier that supplies the content screened at a second physical location.

Claim 19 (Previously Presented): The content information processing apparatus according to Claim 18, wherein the second calculating means calculates the payment to the another content supplier based on attendance at the physical location, attendance at the second physical location, and a number of screening days.

Claim 20 (Previously Presented): The content information processing apparatus according to Claim 1, further comprising incentive means for providing an incentive to the user to view other content on the terminal of the user or to visit the physical location.

Claim 21 (New): The content information processing apparatus according to Claim 1, wherein the calculating means further calculates a second payment to a content distributor, the content distributor distributing the content to the content supplier that screens the content at the physical location.